

Alison M. Bilek
901 Clinton St. Apt. 2
Philadelphia, PA 19107
98P-01 MAY -9 P1:54

United States Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5630 Fishers Lane Room 1061
Rockville, Maryland 20785

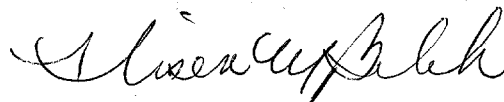
To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in reference to Docket Number **98P-0151/CP1** because of my concern for animals. The meat industry is cruel enough to livestock without having to abuse injured animals. There needs to be protection for "downed animals". "Downed animals" includes cows, pigs, sheep, and horses that were injured before being transported to the slaughterhouse or sustained injuries during transport. These animals are not given any veterinary care to relieve their suffering because they are allowed to be sold for slaughter regardless of their condition.

The processing of these downed animals increases the risk of bacterial contamination and even the spread of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy to humans. The injured animals are often pushed with tractors or dragged with chains, causing further suffering. It is a small percentage of animals that go slaughter that are considered "downed", so prohibiting the sale of these animals would not create financial problems for the industry. It is estimated that ninety percent of the cases of downed animals can be prevented through more humane handling, therefore legislation against the sale of downers could lead to significantly better conditions for livestock animals.

Please create legislation to protect these innocent animals that already have a fairly miserable existence. I look forward to hearing about changes and receiving a response from the FDA.
Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,

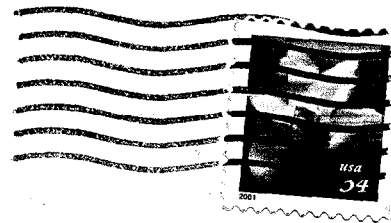


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98P-0151

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Dilek
for St. Apt. 2
PA 19107



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